

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SA, LE, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR PORTER'S INITIAL CALL ON FOREIGN  
MINISTER PRINCE SAUD

REF STATE 9002, JIDDA 158

SUMMARY: DURING AMBASSADOR PORTER'S INTRODUCTORY  
CALL ON FONMIN PRINCE SAUD JAN 18, LATTER SAID HE  
HOPED U.S. COULD SUPPORT MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE  
ARAB POSITION AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL. AMBASSADOR  
REPLIED THAT WE DID NOT BELIEVE SECURITY COUNCIL  
WAS MOST USEFUL FORM TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST. WE HOPED RESULTS OF THE DEBATE WOULD  
NOT CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR OUR CONTINUED EFFORTS  
IN 1976 TO ACHIEVE A MIDDLE EAST PEACE. PRINCE  
FEARED ISRAELI INTERVENTION IN LEBANON WOULD  
ENDANGER THE PEACE OF THE AREA. AMBASSADOR  
SAID THE MOUNTING TRAGEDY OF THE CIVIL WAR  
CALLED FOR THE GREATEST PEACEMAKING EFFORTS  
POSSIBLE FROM LEBANON'S ARAB FRIENDS. THE  
DAYS WHEN U.S. COULD BRING ABOUT A PEACE SETTLE-  
MENT WERE PAST. WE ALSO, HOWEVER, WERE CONCERNED  
ABOUT STABILITY AND INTEGRITY OF LEBANON, AND HE  
WOULD PASS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT  
FORD PRINCE SAUD'S APPEAL FOR U.S. HELP IN KEEPING  
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ISRAEL OUT OF THE CONFLICT. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JAN 18, AMBASSADOR PRESENTED TO SAUDI FOMIN COPY OF HIS LETTER OF CREDENCE AND LETTER OF RECALL OF AMBASSADOR AKINS. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS AND FORMALITIES, PRINCE AND AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED TWO PRINCIPAL ISSUES OF MIDDLE EAST POLITICS: UNSC DEBATE AND LEBANON. MEETING LASTED FORTY MINUTES.

2. AMBASSADOR REVIEWED FOR PRINCE SUBSTANCE OF DEPARTMENT'S 9002. SAUD SAID HE THOUGHT A MAJORITY OF ARABS AT THE UNITED NATIONS WOULD AGREE WITH WHAT AMBASSADOR HAD SAID. EVEN SYRIA, IN THE PRINCE'S OPINION, SHOULD NOT BE COUNTED AMONG THE SPOILERS, BUT MIGHT BE AGREEABLE TO A PROPOSAL THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR (A) ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967; (B) RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN; AND (C) GUARANTEES TO A PEACE SETTLEMENT FOR THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT. THE PRINCE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER A RESOLUTION REPRESENTING THE ENTIRE ARAB CONSENSUS COULD BE TABLED, BUT HE HOPED THAT IF IT WERE, IT WOULD RECEIVE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT.

3. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WHILE THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DETERMINATION TO PUSH FORWARD UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE FOR PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN 1976, THEIR EFFORTS WOULD BE HELPED BY A CONCLUSION TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE THAT DOES NOT IMPEDE MATTERS.

4. PRINCE ASKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR VIEWS ON HOW THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR MIGHT BE ENDED. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THE CARNAGE WAS TRAGIC. EACH DAY'S CASUALTY FIGURES MADE IT MORE URGENTLY NECESSARY THAT LEBANON'S RESPONSIBLE ARAB FRIENDS USE THEIR INFLUENCE IN LEBANON AND ON THE OTHER STATES OF THE AREA TO BRING THE TRAGEDY TO A HALT. AMBASSADOR NOTED THE CIVIL WAR WAS ENTIRELY ARAB MATTER AND THAT THE TIME WAS LONG SINCE PAST WHEN THE UNITED

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STATES OR OTHER OUTSIDE POWERS COULD PROMOTE OR EVEN IMPOSE A SOLUTION.

5. PRINCE SAUD WAS WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE ISRAELI INTERVENTION. COULD THE U.S. CONTINUE TO URGE RESTRAINT UPON THE ISRAELIS, HE ASKED. ISRAEL MAKING NEW THREATS DAILY, HE SAID. IF ISRAEL INTERVENED DIRECTLY IN LEBANON PRINCE FEARED

THE CONSEQUENCES MIGHT BE VIOLENT AND FAR-REACHING. AMBASSADOR PORTER SAID OUR CONCERN FOR THE STABILITY AND INTEGRITY OF LEBANON WAS WELL KNOWN, AND WAS SECOND ONLY TO OUR SIMILAR CONCERN FOR SAUDI ARABIA. HE UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY THE PRINCE'S REMARKS AND THE FULL FLAVOR OF HIS CONCERN TO THE SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT FORD.

6. AT THE CONCLUSION OF VISIT, SAUD TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WOULD ALWAYS DO HIS BEST TO FURTHER AND SECURE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES. THIS RELATIONSHIP HAD HISTORICALLY BEEN THE BASIS FOR SAUDI ARABIA'S DEALINGS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, AND HE WANTED IT TO CONTINUE. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE PRINCE IN THIS EFFORT WITH ALL THE MEANS AND EFFORTS AT HIS DISPOSAL. PORTER

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